

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT

**GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING ECOLOGICAL RISKS POSED BY CHEMICALS  
PART I: INTRODUCTION - DRAFT**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY**

March 17, 2000

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) announces the availability of the draft *Part I. Introduction* of the *Guidelines For Assessing Ecological Risks Posed By Chemicals*. This introductory chapter to the Cal/EPA *Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Risks Posed by Chemicals* provides an overview of ecological risk assessment and adopts the United States Environmental Protection Agency process outlined in the *Guidelines For Ecological Risk Assessment* (1998) for the Cal/EPA guidelines. Additionally, the format and scope of the Cal/EPA guidelines are briefly described. Previous drafts of the *Guidelines For Assessing Ecological Risks Posed By Chemicals. Part I. Introduction* have been reviewed internally by an Ecotoxicology Interagency Workgroup composed of representatives from various Cal/EPA Boards and Departments and the Resources Agency. The outline for the guidelines, developed following Workgroup and public review, has been previously reported in the *Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Risks Posed by Chemicals – Developmental Plan* (OEHHA, 1998). The draft *Part I. Introduction* of the *Guidelines For Assessing Ecological Risks Posed By Chemicals* will be available for public comment from March 17, 2000 through May 15, 2000. Individuals with questions regarding access to, public review, or contents of the *Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Risks Posed by Chemicals* should call the OEHHA Ecotoxicology Unit at (916) 327-1099 for assistance.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING THE DOCUMENT**

Copies of the *Guidelines For Assessing Ecological Risks Posed By Chemicals. Part I. Introduction* can be obtained, via the Internet, at the OEHHA Web site, located at: <http://www.oehha.ca.gov> (see "Ecotoxicology" on this page). Interested individuals who cannot conveniently access the Internet can request, in writing, a hardcopy of the document. The mailing address or fax number is given below.

**WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Written comments can be provided to OEHHA by U.S. mail or fax :

U.S. Mail:      Attention: Michelle St. Croix  
                    Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
                    RCHAS/Ecotoxicology Unit  
                    301 Capitol Mall, Room 205  
                    Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax Number: (916) 327-7340

**TIMELINE FOR RECEIPT OF COMMENTS**

The public comment period will last 60 days from the date of this announcement. **Therefore, the last day for receipt of comments by OEHHA is May 15, 2000.**